

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Vonage Holdings Corporation, Petition)	WC Docket 03-211
for Declaratory Ruling Concerning an Order)	
of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF NENA

The National Emergency Number Association (“NENA”) responds to the FCC’s Public Notice inviting comment on the captioned petition.¹ Among other consequences of the challenged ruling of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MNPUC”),² Vonage discusses the 9-1-1 obligations of telecommunications carriers in the state. (Petition, 24-27) Petitioner also explains its current method of providing a 9-1-1 service substitute to internet-registered users. (Petition, 8-9)

NENA began to address the emergency calling implications of voice calls over the internet (“VOIP”) long before the challenged state ruling.³ We are encouraged by Vonage’s assurance (Petition, 24) that it is prepared to cooperate with Minnesota and others states in “achieving the mutual goal of protecting the safety of Vonage’s customers.” To that end, NENA has been working specifically with Vonage and on a broader scale with industry providers and

¹ DA 03-2952, September 26, 2003.

² The U.S. District Court (D-Minn.) has enjoined permanently the enforcement of the MNPUC order requiring Vonage to comply with regulations the state imposes on telecommunications carriers. *Vonage Holdings Corporation v. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission*, Civil No. 03-5287, October 16, 2003.

³ *See, e.g.*, Comments of NENA and NASNA, Dockets 94-102 and 99-67, February 19, 2003, 15-17.

members of the Voice on the Net (“VON”) Coalition to agree on the processes to develop a short-term solution and a longer-term path forward for the location of VOIP customers who call 9-1-1. We hope to present more detailed information regarding this work to the FCC and other participants in the special VOIP forum scheduled for December 1, 2003.⁴

As we indicated (at 16) in our earlier comments in the 9-1-1 “scope” rulemaking (note 3, *supra*): “If a device is capable of dialing 9-1-1 or reaching an emergency assistance call center, it should be fitted with the capability to pass a call-back number and a location.” We believe this fundamental principle must be applied to VOIP emergency calls.

Whatever our interim arrangements or transitional decisions, such as the call centers now serving satellite telephony and telematics users, we look toward permanent solutions in which devices and services of all types are able to interconnect with a 9-1-1 infrastructure -- which itself is subject to evolution -- that will automatically route emergency calls to that PSAP best suited to dispatch an effective response.

Respectfully submitted,

NENA

By _____

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⁴ Letter from Chairman Powell to Senator Wyden of Oregon, November 5, 2003.